

REMARKS

The Examiner has required election of species in the present application as follows:

- Species A: The species of the first embodiment drawn to a liquid crystal display device with a pair of interdigitated electrodes EL1A and EL1B formed on the insulating film IL1 that is formed onto another pair of interdigitated electrodes EL2A and EL2B (figures 1-6).
- Species B: The species of a second embodiment drawn to a liquid crystal display device with a pair of interdigitated electrodes EL1A and EL1B wherein switching between two states by use of the single pair of interdigitated electrodes could be effected by use of AC voltage V1 which had an amplitude of 8 Vpp and a frequency of 4 kHz and an amplitude of 10 Vpp and a frequency of 8 kHz (figures 7-8).
- Species C: The species of a third embodiment drawn to a liquid crystal display device with single pair of interdigitated electrodes EL1A and EL1B, and pair of parallel plate electrodes formed on the substrates SUB1 and SUB2 (figure 9).
- Species D: The species of a fourth a embodiment drawn to a liquid crystal display device with single pair of interdigitated electrodes EL1A and EL1B, a light reflection plate REF disposed on a lower surface of the substrate SUB1 and $\lambda/4$ plate QP disposed on an upper surface of the substrate SUB1 (figure 10).

In addition, if species A is elected the Examiner has required the election of a sub-species as follows:

- Group I: The sub-species drawn to the switching AC voltage V1 of 8 Vpp, and the switching AC voltage V2 of 6 Vpp, wherein a slight degree of drive voltage asymmetry was observed (Figure 4).
- Group II: The sub-species drawn to the switching AC voltage V1 of 5 Vpp, and the switching AC voltage V2 of 4.8 Vpp, wherein the asymmetry between the drive voltages V1 and V2 could be eliminated (Figure 6).
- Group III: The sub-species drawn to the surface of polyimide film formed on the substrate SUB1 was rubbed by use of buff cloth attached to a rubbing roller along a direction 45 degrees with respect to the x-axis direction of the coordinate system (Fig. 1).
- Group IV: The sub-species drawn to the surface of the photosensitive film formed on the surface of one substrate as an alignment film was scanned by use of ultraviolet rays, wherein light from the ultraviolet source was converted to linearly polarized ultraviolet light by use of a polarization device utilizing a Brewster angle; and the polarized ultraviolet light was irradiated onto the alignment layer twice via two photomasks having the same square checkerboard pattern.

- Group V: The sub-species drawn to polarized ultraviolet light was radiated twice onto each of the photosensitive films (alignment layers) formed on the two substrates sandwiching the liquid crystal via two photomasks having the same square checkerboard pattern while the intensity of the polarized ultraviolet light was changed between the first and second irradiation operations, whereby resultant two easy alignment axes of the alignment layer formed an angle of 45 degrees.
- Group VI: The sub-species drawn to linearly polarized ultraviolet light was radiated onto the surface of the photosensitive film formed on the surface of one substrate as an alignment film was scanned by use of ultraviolet rays, three photomasks having a honeycomb pattern as shown in Fig. 11 were used, and the polarized ultraviolet light was radiated onto the alignment layer three times, while the direction of linear polarization was rotated by 60 degrees each time.

Applicants elect, with traverse, species Group A for search purposes only, for examination. Further Applicants elect, with traverse, sub-species Group I, for search purposes only, for examination. Claims 1-7 and 11-16 read upon the elected species and sub-species. In addition, Figures 1-5 and 11 read upon the elected species and sub-species.

Restriction is proper only if the inventions of the restricted groups are either independent or patentably distinct, and there is a burden in searching the entire application. MPEP § 803.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Election of Species Requirement on the grounds that the Office has not provided any reasons, whatsoever, to support the conclusion of patentably distinctness. Rather, the Office has merely stated the conclusion.

Applicants make no statement regarding the patentable distinctness of the species, but note that for restriction to be proper, there must be a patentable difference between the species as claimed. MPEP § 808.01(a). The Office has not provided any reasons or examples to support a conclusion that the species are indeed patentably distinct. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction is improper, and Applicants' election of species is for examination purposes only.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has not shown that a serious burden exists in searching the entire application.

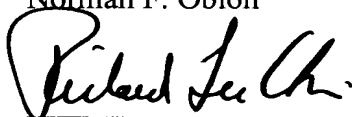
Finally, with respect to the elected species, Applicants respectfully submit that, should the elected species be found allowable, the Office should expand its search to the non-elected species.

Accordingly, and for the reasons presented above, Applicants submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Election of Species Requirement. Withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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